

**DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD
DISTRICT IV**

June 21, 2000

7:00 p.m.

City Hall, 455 North Main

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Members Present

Council Member Gale
June Bailey
Dorman Blake
Chris Carraher
Bonny Johnson-Patrick
Tom Kessler
Edwin Koon
Jerry McGinty
Paul Ward
Wayne Wells
Bea Vickers

Members Absent

None

Guests

Francis McVay	C. Dean Pressnall
Erin & Russell Jefferies	Harold Payne
Terry DeCoy	Phyllis McCabe
Mark & DeAnn Mallonee	Iola Crandall
Jasmine Mallonee	D.E. Webster
Ray & Joyce Rancuret	Mary Dusenbery
Jean Pollitt	Robin Roush
Lisa Turner	Darin Kater
Starla Cunningham	Luke Lewis

ORDER OF BUSINESS

At 7:02 p.m., **Council Member Joan Cole** called the meeting to order and welcomed guests.

Council Member Cole started the introduction of city staff and Districts IV and VI DAB members.

New Business

1. Fire Station Relocation Study

Staff will provide information on the TriData Corporation fire relocation study, which recommends relocation and new construction of several stations to accommodate Wichita's growth.

Ray Trail, Director of Finance, welcomed guests and introduced **Mike Rudd**, Deputy Chief of Operations, Wichita Fire Department. **Trail** addressed the changing needs of the city, specifically Wichita's fire service delivery needs. He provided a brief history of the request for proposal process and the selection of **TriData Corporation**, Arlington, Virginia.

Trail reviewed **TriData's** resume, the city's criteria parameters and desired methodology for the relocation study.

Rudd provided definitions to the gallery regarding fire apparatus functions as well as the current location of existing fire stations and areas where relocation of fire stations would enhance services to more citizens. **Rudd** gave an overview of current service levels and concluded the presentation at 8:00 p.m.

Council Member Joan Cole asked DAB members to comment on any concerns after stating that she is very familiar with Fire Station Four and cares about Delano its citizens.

Bob Schreck, District Advisory Board VI, questioned the use of county fire station service coverage into the city. **Rudd** and **Trail** commented on the exclusion of county stations and the focus on city services in the study. **Rudd** stated that the county is currently reducing the number of available personnel to cover the city, he cited Sedgwick County Fire Station 38, which has reduced its staffing levels by forty percent.

Bickley Foster, District Advisory Board VI, inquired on the role the MAPD, the comprehensive plan, and the potential for resale value for property played in establishing parameters for the consultant. **Trail** stated that all MAPD, comprehensive plan, and computer-modeling information was provided to the consultant. The potential resale value of a property was not a consideration; however, the city will assess if there is a need or use for the property, which is often times converted into community centers or an open space area.

Dorman Blake expressed concern over the lack of coverage for the area south of MacArthur to 63rd, and wants to see fire service as an issue for Southend development.

June Bailey inquired on Wichita's average response time in relation to the national average and the dissolution of the Rescue vehicles. **Rudd** stated the national average for a metropolitan department average response time is six minutes, Wichita has a five-minute response average, one minute better than the national average. The dissolution of the Rescues is a move to more efficient service delivery as the vehicles in question do not carry water and would be replaced with Squads, which can carry "JAWS of Life" and two hundred and fifty gallons of water to support fire operations.

Trail commented that all consultant recommendations are under advisement and will be considered by city staff.

Jerry McGinty asked if additional equipment expenditures would be required as a result of the relocation of any station. **Rudd** stated that new equipment requirements with this plan would be one Engine and two Squads, the remainder of stations will remain unchanged.

Wayne Wells inquired if the ISO rating would change for any properties where relocation was recommended. **Rudd** stated that the ISO rating is performed citywide but a primary component of the rating system assesses if a home is located within three miles of a fire station and 1000 feet within a fire hydrant. **Rudd** continued that the three-mile coverage would be remarkably enhanced with the relocation and the vast majority of Wichita will be within three miles of fire service coverage. Ideal medical response is four to six minutes and five minutes for a fire response.

Wells asked if the personnel of Fire Station Four was consulted about the proposed station closure. **Rudd** stated that staff was consulted and that the consultants visited every station, except stations 16,17, and 18, and met with all ranks of department personnel and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF).

Wells commented that he was concerned about degraded service to the elderly population of his neighborhood, he requested a copy of the alarm load and location of Station 4 within the last five years.

Council Member Cole commented on her perception of the situation and stated that she spent two hours visiting with station personnel and inquired about the role of the station specialization. The advances in technology now require larger apparatus and consequently larger stations to house such apparatus and equipment. **Cole** stated that Station Four responds throughout the city, county, and out of the county in very special occasions (Baby Jesse). The station is predominately used by citizens outside the neighborhood of Delano. **Cole** stated that she is "...unconvinced the closure will adversely affect Delano's service reception". Under current circumstances the station's use is extremely limited.

City Council Member Bill Gale inquired on the recommended location of Fire Station Four's equipment. **Rudd** stated the recommendation is relocation to Fire Station Two. **Gale** asked about the status of a site location in the area of Harry Street and Kansas Highway 42. **Rudd** stated that land in the area has been identified.

Council Member Cole asked if DAB members were through asking questions.

June Bailey asked for clarification on the assessment of potential public use for a closed public facility. **Trail** the city will measure the use by the public and community first, followed by the potential use for redevelopment programs in the area.

Council Member Gale asked if the opportunity would be provided to answer future questions. **Trail** stated that this is a two-fold process, similar to the capital improvement process. First, is the conceptual phase, which is currently under consideration, and the second phase is to address individual items.

Council Member Cole provided public members of the gallery with the opportunity to ask questions of city staff concerning the consultants published report. The time frame for questions was established at fifteen minutes.

Unidentified Citizen asked if consideration had been given to joint service facilities such as Fire Station 12, which shares a building site with Sedgwick County Emergency Medical Service (EMS). **Rudd** responded that consideration is being given to the use of such facilities, however it is premature to speculate on any possible outcomes as that is largely a matter between the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County governments and the elected officials of each respective jurisdiction.

Ray Rancuret, 232 S. Millwood, stated that he did not think the Deputy Chief of Fire Operations and the Director of Finance were ignorant on the matter of the ISO rating process. **Rancuret** does not think that city officials were “well informed about any aspect of this issue” and he questioned **Rudd’s** assertion that sliding poles in fire stations are a safety concern of the department and the city, citing Fire Station One’s fire poles.

Rancuret stated that he does not believe a cost assessment has been performed to estimate the cost of repairing existing infrastructure (plumbing, boilers, wiring, etc.) and construction of an additional apparatus bay on the southside of Fire Station Four. **Rancuret** expressed his belief in the city’s and the consultant’s lack of concern and adequate prioritization of train traffic when addressing the delivery of fire and rescue services to the Delano area.

Rancuret challenged the assertion that Fire Stations One and Two could adequately cover Delano if the relocated Fire Station Thirteen was delayed by a train. **Rancuret** again challenged the reasoning of the fire department in undertaking this study.

Rudd reaffirmed the need to continually assess the level of fire protection provided to the city and that the factors of alarm load, traffic, train traffic, etc. was provided to the consultant and entered into computer models. The deputy Chief emphasized the need to measure the second, third, and forth fire companies response time for structure fires as these additional crews are to provide necessary functions such as search and rescue inside the fire structure, utilities to ensure fire scene safety for crews on hand, and a OSHA mandated Stand-by Rescue Team (SRT).

Lisa Turner, 1602 Maple, stated that she is not convinced the level of service will remain the same if Station Four is relocated.

DeAnn Mallonee, 1305 University, questioned **Rudd’s** statement that Station Four Trained as frequently as he indicated, she commented on the unacceptable level of service to move a fire station away form a care home (Kansas Masonic Home).

Council Member Cole, is there a question?

D. Mallonee, yes...is there another fire station with a response time of less than six minutes?

Rudd yes, Fire Stations One, Two, and Thirteen. **Rudd** commented that every care home address was figured into the consultant’s formulary and computer models.

Father, St. Joseph’s Parish, Stated that he could not foresee how the level of service provided to Delano’s core area would be reduced. **Rudd**, stated that he would not state that a home currently located within four to five blocks would not receive a reduced level of service, however the greater benefit provided to the rest of the neighborhood and community is what out weighs the reduction of service level in the immediate area of Station Four.

Gene Pollit, 421 S. Sycamore, reiterated the fact that the vast majority of homes are over one hundred years old. “We need to keep Station Four...”, “It [Delano] is the oldest area in Wichita...”, and “You are giving Delano a death sentence...”.

Mark Mallonee, 1305 University, stated that he wants the city and the consultants to reconsider the study and lend more weight to natural/man-made barriers in the area, such as train tracks, the river, and highways.

Council Member Cole, “Sir, are you getting to a question?” **M. Mallonee**, yes, he continued to cite the perceived pitfalls and possible occurrences that might delay other fire stations response to the neighborhood. **Cole**, “Sire, you are giving public statements, please ask a question”. **M. Mallonee** the traffic in the area will reduce response time form other stations, was that a consideration? **Rudd**, commented that traffic patterns were indeed part of formulary, after he expressed **Mr. Mallonee’s** false assumptions with regard to fire department operations and plausible roadblock to time responses by fire department personnel.

Council Member Cole stated that fire station relocation agenda item was closed and that this meeting was intended to be informative only and that future opportunity will be given to voice concerns over the study at individual DAB meetings and at city council meetings. **Cole** then thanked Deputy Chief **Rudd** and Director of Finance **Trail** for their time and presentation.

The meeting was then recessed for two minutes to allow for each DAB to address additional agenda items germane to the individual DAB.

2. Discussion of July Meeting Date

Discussion of postponing the regularly scheduled meeting date of Wednesday, July 5, 2000, to the alternate date of Wednesday, July 19, 2000, due to the July 4, holiday.

Chris Carraher moved for unanimous consent to postpone the regularly scheduled meeting as written. (No objections given)

June Bailey expressed her desire to have the 2000-2001 Proposed Budget on the July 19, 2000, meeting.

Council Member Gale stated that he wanted to have the fire station issue on the agenda as well. **Bailey**, would like to see City Council District Four’s fire and rescue response numbers in the discussion, Station Four’s training schedule, and the circular response map. **Bailey** also would like to see a written legal clarification on the Wichita City Council’s change to DAB by-laws. **Gale** commented that Ad Hoc committee’s must originate from with in the Wichita City Council, however it is his understanding form City of Wichita, Lead Attorney, the current committee is legal, legitimate, and continuos as is.

Wayne Wells would lie for Cable Channel Seven to cut out the recesses during replay of the council meeting, MAPC hearings, etc.

Bonny Johnson-Patrick (Bailey) motioned to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian W. Silcott, Neighborhood Assistant